Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/427197834

Downloaded on Mar 29, 2024

Dolan explains Adele's flip phone

Director didn't want video to be a commercial

DOUG CAMILLI

The video for Adele's new single, Hello, directed by Quebecer Xavier Dolan and shot outside Montreal, racked up more than 70 million YouTube views in its first three days. People seem to like her voice.

But that flip phone she uses in the video is driving people crazy, reports the Telegraph. Typical tweeted grumbles: "Adele is back and still hasn't upgraded her cellphone," "Adele, may I remind you that (your album) 21 sold 500 billion copies; get a new phone."

Others are complaining about Adele's strange way of making tea. "She puts the water in before the tea bag?" says one

Adele

tweeter. "What kind of monster is she???"

New Dolan has explained the flip phone, also via Twitter: "(P)hones in movies make me uncomfortable. Like I'm shooting a commercial. Now get over it."

But there's still no explanation about the tea.

He's 26. Adele is 27.

Would you believe Rupert Murdoch and Jerry Hall?

England's Mail on Sunday says the media tycoon is indeed seeing the model, best known as Mick Jagger's ex. They were introduced by some of his female relatives, the paper says.

They've been spending time together in California and New York, and apparently plan to go public next weekend at the Rugby World Cup final in England.

He's 84. She's 59.

Overheard in a Bishop St. bar: "Guns don't kill people. George R.R. Martin kills people."

David Bowie has been working away, pretty much secretly, on a new studio album to be released soon, says the Times of London. It will be his 25th.

It's called Blackstar and has seven tracks. The title tune lasts 10 minutes and includes "Gregorian chants, a soul section (and) various electronic beats and bleeps," the paper says.

Other cuts bring us "long, jazzy jams mixed with the kind of driving beat pioneered by '70s German bands Can and Kraftwerk."

The title single will be out on Nov. 19, with the album to follow on Jan. 8, the day Bowie turns 69.

Every couple of years, Reese Witherspoon starts talking about Legally Blonde 3. Now she's at it again. On some Lifetime talk show the other day, she said the time is right:

"It's kind of great right now because we're talking about women in politics and how important that is to get more women. And I think it'd be kind of a cool thing to have her be a Supreme Court justice or someone who runs for office."

The 2001 original, you may recall, was a big hit. The 2003 sequel, Red, White & Blonde, not quite so much.

Reese is 39.

tellcamilli@gmail.com

The spy who spawned me

INGRID STELLMACHER AND PATRICK FOSTER
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Ben Whishaw, left, in his role as Q, opposite Daniel Craig as James Bond. Whishaw's paternal grandfather spied on the Nazis for the British government, says an upcoming book called Piercing the Waves. SONY PICTURES

To James Bond fans, Q is the geeky genius responsible for the barely believable gadgets that help keep Daniel Craig's 007 alive. But for Ben Whishaw, the actor who plays the character, the role has a greater dash of realism.

In a tale to rival any Bond plot, it can be revealed that the actor's paternal grandfather was a multilingual British spy, blessed with a photographic memory, who was planted inside the German army during the Second World War.

The story of why Whishaw's grandfather, Jean Stellmacher, agreed to act as an undercover British agent, and how he came to adopt a new identity, were revealed to the family by his wife, Olga, only 50 years later, as her husband lay on his deathbed.

The couple's exploits have been collected in a book, Piercing the Waves, by Stellmacher's daughter, Ingrid, that will be published next year. In it, she also reveals her parents' desperate efforts to enter Britain with no papers after the war ended, which culminated in an almost fatal attempt to row the 30 kilometres between France and Jersey in a stolen boat.

"Every step of my grandparents' story is remarkable," Whishaw said. "Including how they tried to get into this country."

Stellmacher was born in 1922 in Istanbul to a Russian mother and a German father. He was called up by the German army while at university in Istanbul. With no emotional connection to Germany, and after telling a tutor of his horror at the prospect of fighting for Hitler, he was introduced to a contact at the British Embassy who, it transpired, was attached to the intelligence services. Faced with the opportunity to acquire a mole within the German army, the British urged Stellmacher to obey the order to enlist, and instead to spy for them.

It is not clear where, or with which regiment, Stellmacher served, but the fact that he spoke seven languages suggests he may have worked in some form of staff liaison role. He is thought to have been blessed with an eidetic memory — the ability to recall sights and sounds effortlessly — and it is said he passed information to the British about plans for the German invasion of North Africa.

In 1942, he escaped across the German lines and turned himself over to the British in Cairo. He was subsequently assigned to the Intelligence Corps, but was then faced with the prospect of trying to assimilate while bearing an obviously German name.

"His real name, and obviously mine, would be Stellmacher," said Whishaw. "But he was no more going to be in the British Army with a German name at that time, than he was going to come to England with one after the war."

Why he chose the name Whishaw is still a mystery — the family believes it may have been the surname of a senior officer — but Jean Vladimir Stellmacher became John Victor Whishaw. After the war ended, he was sent back to Britain and demobilized in 1947. The notes on his British war record state that his military service was "exemplary."

While the fighting might have come to an end, Stellmacher's appetite for adventure did not. Having fallen in love with Olga while based in France during the war, he left for the Continent in 1948 without waiting for his British identity documents to arrive.

After being reunited with his sweetheart, but without possessing the papers to re-enter Britain, the pair hatched a plan to row from the French mainland to the British soil of Jersey. Faced with three-metre waves and a howling gale, the journey turned into a 15 hour ordeal in which Olga burned her love letters as makeshift flares, trying to attract the attention of ships.

Upon reaching Jersey, the pair were arrested and deported back to France, and only managed to re-enter Britain later in the year. Stellmacher went on to hold down a number of jobs, including as a teacher and a writer, before his death in 1994, aged 72. His wife died earlier this year, aged 90.

Despite having learned about his family history, Whishaw said he was not tempted to cast off his adopted surname, unlike Ingrid Stellmacher, who decided to change her name back to her father's. "It's not something I have considered," he said. "I like the name Whishaw and I feel inspired by my grandfather and the events that led him to have a new name."

Raging for and against the machine

While Neil Young dumped on Trump, Katy Perry gets chummy with Clinton

JUAN RODRIGUEZ

Politics has a habit of getting mixed up in rock 'n' roll, originally a genre meant to be a generational signifier. Even the primal phrase "rock 'n' roll" — as in break up the house — conjures mythologies of mayhem and revolt. But over the last few months, the music industry and showbiz in general have been Trumped.

That includes Neil Young, Canadian citizen and official supporter of socialist Bernie Sanders for president, despite photographic evidence of a beaming, ragged Young buddying up to Donald Trump for financing. Tweeted the Donald: "A few months ago Neil Young came to my office looking for $5 on an audio deal & called me last week to go to his concert. Wow!" For good measure, Trump posted a contract page listing Young as a "series A-1 preferred stock purchaser."

Trump used Rockin' in the Free World at the kickoff of his presidential bid and paid for it through ASCAP, the mega-licensor.

Young struck back by giving the song for free to Sanders's quixotic campaign, hopefully counteracting his kind words for Ronald Reagan back in the day.

Young attempted to clarify matters: "A picture of me with this candidate (Trump) ... was a photograph taken during a meeting when I was trying to raise funds for Pono, my online high-resolution music service," he wrote on Facebook.

Anyway, what was up with Young's previous Reagan infatuation?

"I don't have a view, I have an opinion that changes because every day is a different day," Young said in a 1989 Amsterdam interview. "I'm not a liberal or a conservative. I'm not like that. With Reagan, some things he did were terrible, some things he did were great. Most people tend to take a president and say ... he does one thing you really don't like. Like he builds excessive amounts of warheads or something. So you write him off completely. Which I think is completely stupid."

"I was never a Reagan supporter in a total blanket sense," he told MTV in 1990. But he liked some of the Great Communicator's principles, such as people "should pull together and try to do things on their own more than depending on government to do it for them. And I thought that was a hell of an idea, and here's this old guy and he's kind of got this image ... this fatherly image, telling all these people in their neighbourhoods to pull together and get your own daycare centres happening, and get this and that happening."

In that Facebook post, Young maintained: "I do not trust self-serving misinformation coming from corporations and their media trolls. I do not trust politicians who are taking millions from those corporations either. I trust people. So I make my music for people, not for candidates." Right on?

The former members of R.E.M. made waves by rapping Trump for using their song It's the End of the World as We Know It (And I Feel Fine) at a rally. In a statement, they demanded candidates "cease and desist" from using their music at campaign events, but added:

Katy Perry showed her love for Hillary Clinton at a fundraiser in Des Moines, Iowa, on Saturday. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

"Let us remember that there are things of greater importance at stake here. The media and the American voter should focus on the bigger picture, and not allow grandstanding politicians to distract us from the pressing issues of the day and of the current presidential campaign."

Singer Michael Stipe didn't mince words in his own statement, tweeted by bassist Mike Mills: "Go f--- yourselves, the lot of you — you sad, attention-grabbing, power-hungry little men. Do not use our music or my voice for your moronic charade of a campaign."

Aerosmith also got into the act. Frontman Steven Tyler, a registered Republican, sent a letter to Trump's people demanding they stop using Dream On at campaign events. His attorney Dina LaPolt said Tyler's letter was not a "political" or "personal issue with Mr. Trump," but was concerned with permission and copyright. Memo to Tyler: Don't forget to stick your finger in the wind two or three months from now. If Trump continues as front-runner, Aerosmith would stand to collect big-time for Dream On.

Or Trump could shrug and tweet, as he did to Young concerning Rockin' in the Free World: "Didn't love it anyway."

Meanwhile, Hillary Clinton made other politicos seem like second-raters by inviting Katy Perry to sing for her at an Iowa event on Saturday.

First, there was Bill Clinton extolling his wife's virtues, and quipping: "I've never been the warm-up act for Katy Perry before."

Cue to Perry: "You're gonna hear us roar, to 2016 and beyond!" she shouted during her rendition of Roar, Clinton's campaign song.

Hillary tied it up in a nice bow: "Sometimes it's important, you just have to roar about what you need to fight for."

Not to mention having to take selfies together.

rodriguez.music@gmail.com

Copyright © 2024 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.
Powered by Newspapers.com